

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /017 W

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O R 031400Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9711

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0553

STATE FOR CU; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ (WITBECK, MICHAEL)

SUBJ: US LECTURER FOR BRATISLAVA

REF: (A) STATE 49722; (B) STATE 44459

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED, MARCH 1, THAT SLOVAK MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WAS WITHDRAWING APPROVAL FOR WITBECK WORK THIS SEMESTER AT KOMENSKY UNIVERSITY. MFA INTERVENED AT EMBASSY REQUEST, MARCH 2, TO CLARIFY FOR MINED OFFICIALS UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY SUCH ILL-CONSIDERED ACTION. EMBASSY HAS TODAY SOUGHT AND RECEIVED RECONFIRMATION FROM BOTH SLOVAK MINED AND MFA THAT WITBECK IS WELCOME AND THAT ACCOMMODATIONS AND RECEPTION IN BRATISLAVA WILL BE IN KEEPING WITH HIS CONTRIBUTION TO UNIVERSITY PROGRAM.

2. SLOVAK MINED SUGGESTS THAT WITBECK ARRANGE TRAVEL IN ORDER TO ARRIVE BRATISLAVA, MARCH 15. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS DATE WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH ANY WITBECK PLANS TO SPEND SOME PORTION OF MARCH 8-12 WEEK IN PRAGUE, PRIOR TO ONWARD TRAVEL TO BRATISLAVA, AND SUGGESTS THAT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE ACCORDINGLY.

3. MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS THAT MFA CONSULAR OFFICE WILL IMMEDIATELY ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO CZECH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING APPROVAL WITBECK VISAS. THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN WITHHELD PENDING FORMAL ACTION BY SLOVAK

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MINED.

4. EVEN WHEN ANNOUNCING SHORT-LIVED REFUSAL OF WITBECK FOR THIS SEMESTER, SLOVAK MINED NEVER QUESTIONED DESIREABILITY HIS PLACEMENT THERE DURING 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR. IN FACT, APOLOGETIC SPOKESMAN OFFERED THIS AS QUESTIONABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLETION LONG-DELAYED PLACEMENT ACTION THIS CURRENT SEMESTER.

5. AFTER EXPRESSING THANKS FOR EMBASSY ROLE IN PRESERVATION WITBECK ASSIGNMENT, SLOVAK MINED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE PROMISED WRITTEN RECONFIRMATION BY LETTER, MARCH 4, OF WITBECK ACCEPTANCE, AND ASKED FOR ETA WITBECK IN BRATISLAVA, WHEN KNOWN. APAO PLANS TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO BRATISLAVA.

7. ADVISE TRAVEL PLANS. PERRY

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